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Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 SPC-01 USIA-04

AID-10 DRC-01 /072 W
---------- 023465
R 051230Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3290
INFO SECDEF
CJCS
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10762

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MILI, CB
SUBJ: STATUS OF NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

REF: PHNOM PENH 10670

1. SUMMARY. THE "COMMAND UVD CONTROL" SYSTEM FOR NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION IS NOW IN PLACE AND THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH PERPAHS WEAKENED BY THE REPORTED REFUSAL OF 3 HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL MEMBERS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT, HAS BEGUN. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LOCAL OFFICIALS, ON WHOSE HONESTY AND EFFICIENCY THE REGISTRATION AND CONSCRIPTION PROCESSES PERFORCE DEPEND, IS, HOWEVER, YET TO BE TESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR GENERAL THAPPANA NGINN'S "JOINT STAFF OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSCRIPTION" HAS ORGAINZED ITSELF INTO GROUPS TO (A) PURSUE THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, (B) CHECK
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ON REGISTRATION AND CONSCRIPTION PROCESSES, (C) ASSURE

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SECURITY, (D) INVESTIGATE FRAUD, (E) LAUNCH RECRUITING TEAMS, AND (F) ARRANGE FOR THE RECEPTION OF RECRUITS AND DRAFTEES. THESE GROUPS CONTAIN HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THE FANK GENERAL STAFF AND THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE AND SHOULD THIS BE ABLE TO FUNCTION WITH SOME AUTHORITY.

3. THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IS MOVING ALONG. ALTHOUGH THE REPORTED REFUSAL OF CHENG HENG, SIRIK MATAK AND IN TAM TO MAKE RADION ADDRESSES AS SCHEDULED WILL SOMEWHAT WEAKEN THE IMPACT. MOVIE HOUSES, RADIO AND TELEVISION ARE ALL CARRYING SPOT APPEALS, MILITARY ENTERTAINEMENT AND RECRUITMENT GROUPS ARE TO START MOVING AROUND THE CITY TOMORROW AND LEAFLETS WILL BE DROPPED ON OCTOBER 7. ON OCTOBER 15 THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL SHIFT FROM PHNOM PENH TO THE PROVINCES.

4. ANOTHER JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE WAS BROADCAST ON OCTOBER 4 WARNING THAT VENDORS OF FALSE DOCUEMENTS TO AID DRAFTEES TO OBTAIN DEFERRALS WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND OFFERING REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF SUCH MALEFACTORS. (WE HAD SUGGESTED A PRIOR WARNING OF THIS SORT).

5. THE REAL TEST OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL, OF COURSE, BE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THAPPANA NHINN THAT GENERAL MOBILIZATION OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO GRANT DRAFT DEFERRALS, AND PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR UN TRAMUCH CONFIRMED THAT HE IS SENDING OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO REFER ALL REQUESTS FOR DEFERRALS TO REVIEW BOARDS WHICH ARE TO BE SET UP IN EACH OF PHNOM PENH'S 8 KHAND. GENERAL MOBILIZATION OFFICIALS HAVE NOW BEEN ORDERED TO BEGIN NOTIFYING ELIGIBLE MALES ON EXISTING REGIS-TRATION LISTS TO REPORT. UN TRAMUCH STATED THAT OFFICIALS WILL CONCURRENTLY CONDUCT A NEW CENSUS TO COMPLETE THESE LISTS, WHICH HE ADMIST ARE IN VIRTUALLY ALL CASES DEFICIENT. (A MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCE CLARIFIED, HOWEVER, THAT NO NEW CENSUS IS CONTEMPLATED AND THAT THE OLD LISTS WILL SIMPLY BE REVISED.)

6. ACTUAL CALL-UPS WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 10. ACCORDING TO UN TRAMUCH
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DRAFTEES WILL BE GIVEN TWO DAYS TO SETTLE PERSONAL AFFAIRS AND INDUCTIONS WILL COMMENCE OCTOBER 12. THE AS YET UNUSED FANK TRANSIENT CENTER (CONSTRUCTED WITH COUNTERPART FUNDS) WILL BE USED AS A RECEPTION AND PROCESSING POINT FROM WHICH RECRUITS WILL BE SENT TO TRAINING CENTERS. THE SYSTEM, UN TRAMUCH ADDED, CAN HANDLE UP TO 100 INDUCTEES PER DAY.

7. ACCORDING TO THAPPANA NHINN, THE PRESIDENT HAS ENDORSED

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THE FREE RICE RATION FOR THE GENERAL RESERVE, WHICH WE HAD RECOMMENDED, AND THE PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET FOR FINAL APPROVAL. WE HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED THE RESUTS OF THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS.

8. COMMENT: WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE RELATIVELY EFFICIENT AND RAPID MANNER IN WHICH THAPPANA NHINN HAS ORGAINZED HIS STAFF AND LAUNCHED THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN. FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY TASK OF REGISTERING AND NOTIFYING DRAFTEES, HOWEVER, HE JUST RELY ON THE EXISTING GOVERNMENTAL AND GENERAL MOBILIZATION ORGANS. THIS IS A WEAK STRUCTURE HEADED IN PHNOM PENH BY A WEAK GOVERNOR, WHOSE ONLY QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE SEEMS TO BE HIS TOTAL LOYALTY TO LON NOL AND WHO HAS OPENLY SHOWN HIS DISTASTE FOR THE HARD TASK AHEAD. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THAPPANA NHINN'S STAFF CAN THROUGH PUBLICITY, INSPECTIONS, WARNINGS AND ARRESTS EVOKE AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO ARE UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT FROM THEIR IMMEDIATE SUPERIORS. IT IS TOO EARLY AT THIS POINT TO PREDICT THE RESULTS BUT WE INTEND TO START MONITORING AT LOWER LEVELS TOMORROW. ENDERS

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